

2017 Annual Report



Greetings from Onondaga Free Library

We are the community's destination to read, explore, learn and share. We remain dedicated to building relationships with our community. Our friendly and informed staff create a positive and welcoming library experience.

2017 was an extraordinary year at the library. During the first year of increased Town of Onondaga funding, the library was open 3,272 hours, held 760 programs for 8,616 people and circulated 266,867 items. In addition, 102,771 people visited the library in person, public meeting space was made available to 1,804 groups and wireless and internet access was provided to 52,093 visitors. 844 library cards were issued to new patrons.

The library was chosen as the best library for the second time in the *Syracuse New Times* reader poll. New programs and initiatives began, including 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. Capital improvements included the installation of fiber internet service, telephones and new public computers.

To our wonderful community that supports the library, we thank you for providing the financial resources for being able to offer the collections, programs, and services that change lives for the better.

We look forward to seeing you at the library!

Susan Morgan, Director



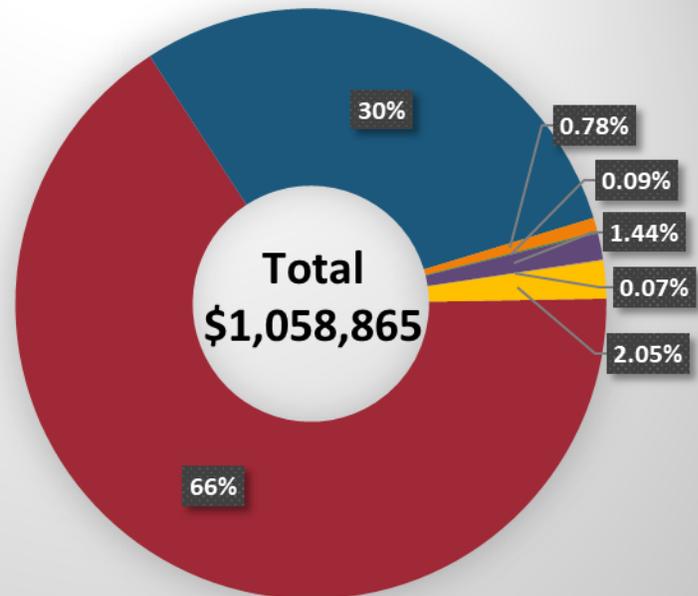
OFL Voted Best Library (Again)!

OFL was honored once again with the title Best Library based on the Syracuse New Times' Best of Syracuse annual readers poll. Our staff, board of trustees and Friends would like to thank everyone who voted for OFL. This shows that our community is enjoying our beautiful space and collections, friendly staff, and all the new programs and services we began offering in 2017. Learn more about our new services on page 3 of this report.

2017 Financial Summary

Revenues

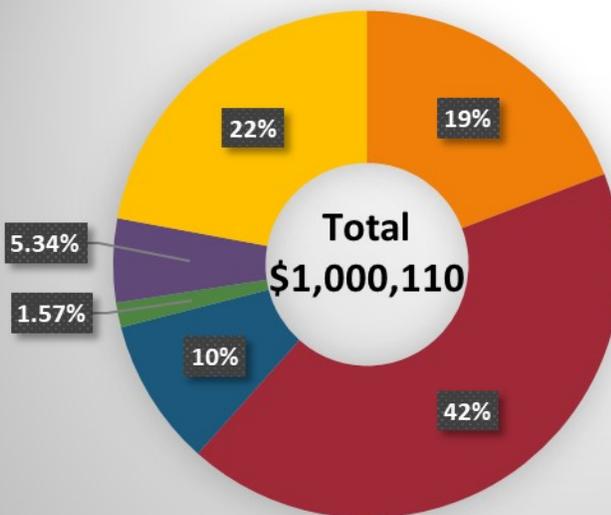
- Town of Onondaga (\$700,000)
- School Funds (\$312,000)¹
- State Aid (\$8,215)
- Grants (\$1,000)
- Gifts & Fundraising (\$15,224)²
- Interest (\$691)
- Library Charges (\$21,735)



¹School Funds include Westhill, West Genesee and Onondaga Central School Districts
²Gifts & Fundraising total includes \$10,844 from the Friends of Onondaga Free Library

Expenditures

- Debt Service (\$192,076)
- Staff Salaries, Wages, Benefits, Taxes (\$423,981)
- Collections (\$94,078)
- Programming (\$15,739)
- Capital Expenditures (\$53,395)
- Building Operation & Maintenance (\$220,841)



New Town of Onondaga Funding Allocations:

- **Extended Hours – Added 7 hours per week:** As per the community's request, we now open earlier on weekdays and have longer weekend hours. Due to the extended hours, we have seen a direct correlation to the increased use of the library's collections and services in 2017. Circulation is at a record high – up 15% from last year. Meeting room reservations are up 20% as community members and organizations have extended access to our spaces. Daily visits, computer use and program attendance remain at healthy totals each month.
- **Full Time Staffing:** 3 new full time staffing positions were added to support the extended hours, develop innovative services and programs for seniors, adults and families and help update flagship collections.
- **Technology Upgrades:** Increased funding helped update existing infrastructure, including phones and fiber internet installation, to support increased demand of the library's services. The funding also allowed the library to offer new requested technology services including wireless and color printing, scanner and new public computers supporting Windows 10.



Summer Reading: Another Record Breaking Year!

Another record breaking summer – over 2,000 more books were read compared to last year!

- **Total Registered Summer Reading Participants:** 500 (465 in 2016)
- **Total Books Read:** 5,651 (3,503 in 2016)

This past summer, teen volunteers worked in squads to support our summer reading program: Tech Squad met at the Senior Center for 1-on-1 help sessions, Party Planners decorated the library and hosted a fun Harry Potter-themed party for all ages to celebrate the character’s birthday, Reading Buddies read books with beginner readers, and Kids Create It and S.T.E.A.M. squads assisted staff with some of our weekly kids programs. One of our Reading Buddies said she “liked being able to work with kids and to share [her] love of reading with them.”

Summer program highlights included Games on a Roll, Dan the Snakeman, The Bubbleman, YogaKids and the finale party which featured Zoo to You and Dave & Busters Fun Zone. A special thanks to all

New Programs & Services



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

In 2017, we launched 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, a year-round reading program for babies, toddlers and preschoolers. Congratulations to David (pictured) for being one of the first kids to complete our program and earning a custom t-shirt!

S.T.E.A.M. Station

In the spring, with the help of Rachel Mandel, an intern from SU, we were able to build a collection of books and kits that promote learning in an exciting new way- through science, technology, engineering, arts and math. Our new S.T.E.A.M. Station allows kids and teens to explore these areas anytime they come in the library!

Hoopla

OFL cardholders now have access to hundreds of thousands more digital titles, including e-books and e-audiobooks when they use Hoopla! With this innovative new service patrons can also download or stream music, movies and TV shows for free. Patrons have 24/7 access to the extensive collection and there are no waiting lists!

Thank You Friends!

The Friends of Onondaga Free Library had terrific fundraising events in 2017 including: annual membership campaign, book sale and the Festival of Trees. With their donation of \$10,844, the Friends provided funds for a new bike rack, children’s toys and career outfits, children’s biographies, Lucky Day books, Fast Flicks, holiday concert and prizes for our adult summer reading program. We are grateful to have such a wonderful source of library support from the Friends.

During National Friends of the Library Week, Senator DeFrancisco visited OFL to present our Friends with a proclamation for all their hard work, dedication and generosity.



Senator DeFrancisco presenting founding and current Friends of OFL director Mary Girolamo with the proclamation.

MARCH 2018 FACES OF OFL:

Board of Trustees

Casey Barduhn, President
Jennifer Frasier, Vice President
Gary Lucas, Treasurer
Colleen Mahoney, Secretary
Tom Bradley
Amy Kremenek
Dan Pautz

Full-Time Staff

Susan Morgan, Director
Alyssa Newton, Assistant Director
Maggie Gall, Youth Services Librarian
Al Oliveras, Digital Services &
Technology Librarian
Chantal Sparkes, Marketing &
Outreach Coordinator

Part-Time Staff

Jackie Antonacci, Page
Theresa Castilano, Clerk
Kori Gerbig, Youth Services Specialist
Mary Honis, Bookkeeper
Goran Lucic, Clerk
Sara Randolph, Clerk
Ellie Stultz, Clerk
Ali Thabet, Page
Gail Thomas, Processing Clerk
Sue Thomas, Clerk
Nancy Warner, Clerk
Debbie Zabel, Clerk
Brennan Zimmer, Clerk

Substitute Staff

Pat Hagemann, Clerk
Mary Honis, Clerk
Monica Lukowski, Clerk
Chris Seiter-Dewey, Clerk

Volunteers

Kathy DeSanctis
Donna Schwarz
Mary Silky

Digital Services & Technology Librarian, Al Oliveras

I am looking forward to contributing to the success of OFL in 2018!

First, I am excited to be collaborating with coworkers to create a new "Library of Things" collection which will launch this summer. Patrons will now be able to borrow e-readers, tablets, streaming devices and more right from OFL! Our goals for this project include cross-promoting this collection with some of our digital resources as well as keeping staff and patrons up-to-date with current and emerging technologies by offering a "digital petting zoo".

I will also be further identifying and purchasing new equipment, such as flat screen displays for our community meeting rooms, to enhance OFL services and programming.

Another priority is to improve staff and patron knowledge on the various digital resources that are available to OFL cardholders. I will be providing monthly hands-on training for staff, and in addition to currently offering 1-on-1 computer/tablet basic classes lessons to patrons, I am identifying other opportunities for adults to further develop their digital literacy skills and knowledge (i.e. drop-in sessions and learning circles).



Youth Services Librarian, Maggie Gall

As a librarian from outside NY, my goals in coming here were not only to get to know my new community, but also to bring fresh ideas and perspective to the amazing programming, spaces and collections that already exist at OFL.

There is so much that I'm looking forward to in 2018! First, we will be launching a weekly after-school S.T.E.A.M. club. Many students in our community are being turned away from their school clubs because interest is so high, so we hope to fulfill this need.

Next, I have always been a supporter of the We Need Diverse Books (WNDB) campaign. It is not only my job as a librarian to support this cause, but also as a passionate individual who shares a love of reading. We have identified over 100 books in our juvenile and young adult collections that have been nominated for or have won numerous books awards. It is a honor for us to pilot the WNDB campaign in our area and I cannot wait to see which books become new favorites!

For my first summer here, I am looking forward to...well everything! Meeting, reading and hanging out with all the families, collaborating with teen volunteers, programs such as Dan the Snakeman, Games on a Roll and a weekly open play hour for parents and their children. I am especially looking forward to hatching baby chicks! It's going to be a great year!



Onondaga Free Library

4840 West Seneca Turnpike • Syracuse, NY 13215
(315) 492-1727 • onondagafree@onlib.org
www.oflibrary.org

Connect with us:

@OnondagaFreeLib

